

**Colorado State Emergency Operations Plan
Annex 8
Drought**

NOTE: This is taken from the Colorado Drought Mitigation and Response Plan (update 2002), which is part of the Colorado Mitigation Plan.

State action is taken when local government capabilities cannot cope with existing or growing needs from drought impacts. Response consists of any action taken to solve a given drought problem, from media announcements to funding or reallocation of resources. The agencies of state government that may be called upon to carry out response functions are shown in Figure 2.6 below. The department or agency most concerned is assigned to act as lead agency and enlist others to address immediate drought response needs. Figure 2.7 outlines the general tasking of the response functions.

If drought conditions worsen, agencies become overburdened, and emergency conditions threaten, an Interagency Coordinating Group (ICG) may be activated by proclamation of the Governor upon recommendation by the Review and Reporting Task Force (R&RTF). The Governor appoints the chair of the ICG.

This group will have the authority to take the appropriate actions to mitigate the impact of drought and will report directly to the Governor's office. It will develop, coordinate, and recommend solutions to impact problems involving:

- Executive Branch actions, to include interdepartmental or outside support (possible federal declaration).
- State Legislative actions, including requests for funding.
- Program implementation, monitoring, and approval.

Appendix A lists state and federal assistance programs to which the ICG can refer to provide relief from drought impacts. Appendix B contains a chart of actions taken to reduce drought impacts during previous droughts in Colorado.

2.7

Emergency Lead Agencies & Responsibilities	
<p>Department of Local Affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal water/sewer systems • Municipal fire protection • Promotion of water conservation practices for municipal systems 	<p>Office of Emergency Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life Threatening situations • Assessment and emergency response coordination
<p>Department of Natural Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife • Water shortages, resources allocation • Overall promotion of water conservation practices • Response coordination, retardation of soil loss, erosion 	<p>Department of Agriculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture • Promotion of water conservation practices
<p>State Forest Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildfire protection 	<p>Office of State Planning & Budgeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic losses, actual and projected
<p>Office of Energy Management & Conservation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy shortages/disruptions 	<p>Department of Military Affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource support

Office of economic Development & International Trade

- Tourism

Department of Public Health & Environment

- Public Health

Figure 2.6

General Tasking: Response

Local Governments

- Respond to drought impacts when possible, in accordance with local needs; report unmet needs and request assistance through appropriate agencies (to include task forces) of state government when needs cannot be met locally.

All Departments of State Government

- Address drought related problems through normally established program activities; cooperate with response agencies upon their delegation
- Act as lead drought response agency when designated, and take action within assigned sectors of responsibility.
- Consider and recommend water conservation practices to lead agencies.

Lead Agencies

- Provide direction and integration of effort to all agencies concerned with drought response within assigned sector or responsibility, utilizing normal programs and resources available.
- Provide a senior level manager to the Interagency Coordinating Group (ICG) when activated.
- Identify to leadership, and to the ICG when activated, unmet needs resulting from drought impacts and responses.

Interagency Coordinating Group (ICG) - when activated by gubernatorial proclamation

- Review impact task force statements of unmet needs to recognize and identify alternate choices for response.
- Develop, coordinate, and recommend solutions to impact problems involving:
 - State legislative actions, to include requests for funding.
 - Program implementation, monitoring and approval.
 - Ensure interagency coordination (e.g. media releases).Determine when drought intensity has receded to the point that there is no longer a need for the ICG to function.